

REMARKS

Applicants have rewritten claims 22 and 23 in independent form, canceled claims 1-21 and 24, and added new claims 25-38. Support for claims 25 and 32 can be found at page 9, lines 16-26 of the specification. Claims 26-31 correspond, respectively, to canceled claims 14-16, 20, 21, and 24. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments.

Claims 22, 23, and 25-38 are currently pending. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 13-18, 20, 21, and 24 are rejected as being anticipated by Boxhoorn et al. (U.S. Patent 4,728,634). These claims have been canceled.

Allowable subject matter

The Examiner concludes that claims 22 and 23 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. See the Office Action, page 5, lines 5-13.

Applicants have amended them accordingly. Claims 22 and 23, now in independent form, are in condition for allowance.

New claims

New claims 25-31 depend from claim 22, and new claims 32-38 depend from claim 23. As claims 22 and 23, distinguishable from Boxhoorn et al., cover allowable subject matter (see the Office Action, page 5, lines 8-13), so do claims 25-38.

Note that new claims 25 and 32 are also distinguishable from Boxhoorn et al. in view of the silicon compound content recited therein, i.e., 0.01-1 mol/kg calculated as silicon. More specifically, 1 kg of alumina = about 10 moles (Al_2O_3) = 20 mole of Al. Thus, each of claims 25 and 32 covers a catalyst having 0.01-1 moles Si per 20 moles of Al, i.e., Si/Al atom ratio of 0.0005-0.05. Boxhoorn et al., on the other hand, discloses a catalyst having Si/Al atom ratio of

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about 0.1 to 0.5, as pointed out by the Examiner. See the Office Action, page 3, penultimate line.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the grounds for rejection asserted by the Examiner have been overcome, and that claims 22, 23, and 25-38, as pending, define novel subject matter. Applicant ask that claims 22, 23, and 25-38 be allowed.

Enclosed is a \$950 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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